1/4/66

Dear both,

Ruby's death, coming as it does with the Post story, the premature release of the Capitol record, the Manchester situation, and the growing concern with the whole mess, get the year off to a rather accelerated beginning on the assassination and everything involved in it. After speaking to Paul yesterday while in Washington I had expected to write this letter after supper. I never finished the meal. There were three radio interviews by phone, one lasting two hours, phoned interviews with the foreign press, arrangements for flying to Chicago for a TV confrontation with a former staff member and Ruby's lawyer and the regular interests and occurrences on this subject. So, you can see that interest is even greater and I expect will greatly increase for there is more in the works, including newspaper and magazine. I do hope you'll be able to edit your new show and get it out faster than last time.

As Paul knows, I was unhappy about several aspects of the new plan. They are your affair, not mine, and I cannot tell you how to do your programs. I am going to express a few thoughts before I leave for Washington and hope haste does not make me unclear. As you know, I feel it is wrong for these bums to continue to be represented by champions. That you may be able to do nothing about. I also think it is wrong to have Lane in for several reasons, not the least of which is how unfair it can be to him. If you have read the epilogue to WHITEWASH II you have an idea of what Nizer, if not the former staff, can do with this. It is actually an understatement of what I could have said and what, increasingly, people, including people who disagree with the Report, are now saying. I have been publicly silent through much abuse, theft, etc., but will not be indefinitely. If I am provoked enough I can break loose, and I do not want to. I haven't until now, and I do not have to tell you what this could have done to help my sales. Lane and Holt have even stolen my lines and used them as his. Holt has admitted in writing what amounts to fraudulent advertising. You know about Mensdorf. There ought, some place, to be a limit.

I believe that Lane's presence will further load the show in favor of the other side, especially with a sharpie like Nizer, who knows all the tricks. Hence I believe it is furtherunfair to both me and the truth. It is not as though the side of the Report has been without expression or access to the public. It has all been their way until very recently. I also believe it will lead to confusion, for there will be all those articulate people, experienced in public appearances as I am not yet, all aggreeing and being united. Mark and I are not in agreement except in saying the Report is wrong. So the two of us begin fractioned. If you add to this my own bitterness at the things he and Holt and their European associates have done to me and have the slightest inkling of what this has meant to us and how we have to live, you'd know what I fear can happen to me on camera. You do know by now that when I get warmed up on this I go on autopilot anyway. I do not want this show to wind up the place I give Mark what is his overdue. I do not think that is the kind of show you want, and I do not think it will help what you want, I think, as much as I do. You should know him well enough by now to know he is not going to restrain himself or change his behavior or character, and I think you know how, in the intensity of it all, I may be unable to restrain myself.

Further, I think it is unfair to me. I think by now on a purely deserved basis I should have this, or our side, alone. Especially to your audience is Mark not an unusual personality. By the time your show is aired, the sales of WHITEWASH alone will have exceeded the sales of Rush to Judgement if, in fact, they have not already, for the all book is going like hell, even without advertising (and I've been doing all the promotion, without some much as a bus token from them!). He has been on my back long enough. I think that if this were to be as I think we originally planned it (for I am unaware of his willingness to tackle all of them, alone) it will be a livelier show. Remember what happened on the Burke show and how dramatic it was. These will be tougher adversaries, and Mark will be no help against them, for he does not know that much

about it, as only those who really know the subject understand. He will not be able to pull the stuff he did in his book because those people will know what the facts are, and just a few of the cute things from the book will be ruinous in the hands of people like Nizer. As you may know, for the longest time, he ducked Liebeler. It is I who took the heat off of him from this in California, where his own friends called on me to do this. I think it would be very bad to get that mixed up in your show. Liebeler can prove that Mark a)lied and b)got paid for it, which is the core of their dispute which may be formalized in a court case by the time the show is taped, if not when it is aired. If it is not in courtk it is only because Mark continues to default. All of this will not help the truth, not help the show, and certainly will not help me. I do not want to spend the fragment of time I'll have defending him.

It is your show. There is more I'd like to say but am already too late leaving home. I do hope youwill think about what in too-great haste I have tried to say. I hope it is clear enough. As you know, I'll do whatever you say. But do think about this, and ask me if you have any questions or if I'm unclear.

One other eventuality you might want to consider: what will happen if one of them asks Mark if he has plagiarized from my work? What will I be able to say or do, and what will the net result be?

Sincerely,

Harold